

Gulf currencies may be revalued

AMMAN, Jan. 27 (AP). — Banking sources said here today they expected the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Bahrain to revalue their currencies upward by five to seven per cent. The sources said they had no firm indication that Saudi Arabia would follow suit. In the wake of a flurry of foreign currency speculation in the Gulf area, the authorities in Bahrain and Qatar have given notice of imminent unspecified changes in the foreign exchange value of their currencies. Bankers said the immediate aim of the impending revaluations would be to stem the speculation that has "flooded Gulf money markets with invented dollars." But the longer term objective, they said, is to curb inflation and arrest recession in the Gulf area.

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Cosmos radiation non-existent

OTTAWA, Jan. 27 (R). — A supposed high-level source of radiation — once thought to have come from the Soviet nuclear-powered satellite (Cosmos 954) which disintegrated over northern Canada on Tuesday — has now been found not to exist at all, the head of Canada's armed forces said today. Canadian officials initially said they believed debris from the Soviet satellite was emitting "extremely dangerous" levels of radiation in a remote part of the country's Northwest territories. But Admiral Robert Falls said today that the report of the radiation was based on a "fault or aberration in the equipment" aboard the sensor-equipped aircraft combed the area.

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JORDAN TIMES

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جوردن تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الرأي»

Chief of Royal Court says: Jordan won't supplant Palestinians at talks

AMMAN, Jan. 27 (JNA). — Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf said in a television interview screened here today that criticism directed against Jordan for not participating in the Egyptian-Israeli peace negotiations was based on the misapprehension that Jordan wanted to supplant the Palestinians at the talks.

During an interview with Jordan Television, Sharif Sharaf said that Jordan has always considered itself as having a basic role to play in combating the Israeli occupation and achieving a just and lasting peace in the entire region side by side with the Palestinians and not at their expense.

He quoted His Majesty King Hussein as affirming that Jordan did not have any territorial ambitions and that it shouldered historical and national responsibility towards the problems and rights of the Palestinian people.

"Jordan is ready to play a role complementary to that of the Palestinian people and of their rights within the unified and expanded Arab framework. Jordan was willing to go to Geneva within this context, as part of a unified Arab delegation which includes Palestinians, to reach a just and lasting settlement based on U.N. Resolution 242 and the other resolutions on the rights of the Palestinians," Sharif Sharaf stated.

If Israel persists in its present attitude of holding on to the occupied lands and rejecting the legitimate rights of the Palestinians while at the same time trying to secure Arab recognition and lasting peace "this is impossible and cannot be achieved," he added.

All indications are that Israel rejects the idea of humane and civilized co-existence in the Middle East and prefers to keep the occupied Arab lands," he said.

Sharif Abdul Hamid said the role that the United States is called to play at this point is to throw its full weight behind an honourable and just peace balancing total Israeli withdrawal and the rights of the Palestinian people against the commitments according to a just peace.

The United States should use its considerable weight in world affairs of its international responsibilities and its influence in the region, especially on Israel to this end he said.

The U.S. is called on to take fundamental courageous decisions against Israeli expansionism.

Asked if the Arabs would resort to war if things were to reach a deadlock, he answered

Jordan's new Yarmouk University plans to enroll 20,000 students within ten years

Will Jordan's new Yarmouk University really enroll 20,000 students ten years time on a campus which measures 7 1/2 kms. by 1 1/2 kms? To attempt to find the answer to these and similar questions Jordan reporter Lee S. Teddell recently went to Irbid to see the temporary site of the university, to talk with students, faculty and administration. He also talked with administrative staff, the chief engineer and the president at the Amman office of the university.

The results of our research form a three part series, starting today. It is the real test of the plans will come only when libraries, classrooms, dormitories and most important of all, new scholars, begin to emerge from the red plains of northern Jordan.

Mr. Ra'if Nijem, Director of Engineering Office which is responsible for the building of the new campus, described the initial steps which were taken after it was decided to build a new university. Early 1975, over 10 million square metres of land was released from the government for the permanent campus. The piece of land was bought by the Amman-Damascus highway on the west, on a plot by desert, on the east by the I.P.C. pipeline and on the north the Irbid highway. The first step after purchase was the presentation of a topographical map of the

site. Announcements were then made in international magazines for the submission of applications for a master plan for the university. The response from 172 firms came from all round the world." In order to "scrutinize applications" a technical committee was formed and a short list was produced of those firms which were specialized in university planning. A tender was then prepared for the master plan including necessary technical data such as results of bore tests and soil bearing capacity tests.

Masterplan in April

Fifteen of the most promising

Police quell big anti-settlement protest in Nablus

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan. 27 (Agencies). — Israeli police made widespread arrests in the occupied West Bank town of Nablus today after quelling violent demonstrations, which correspondents described as the biggest since Menachem Begin took office last June.

Two youths were reported injured in the clash with police who fired into the air and used tear gas.

According to Israel Radio, an Israeli driver opened fire at the demonstrators, injuring one youngster. An investigation was opened into the incident.

Trouble began when several hundred Arab youths attacked and set fire to Israeli cars in the streets, reports said.

It was when the youths tried to set fire to a branch of Bank Leumi that security forces intervened.

The demonstration was in protest against Jewish settlements on the West Bank. Sources said that Nablus inhabitants were preparing a petition against the settlements to be sent to the Security Council.

Tunis riots leave 40 dead as army occupies union H.Q.

TUNIS, Jan. 27 (Agencies). — At least 40 people were killed in riots that spread through Tunis yesterday during a general strike, Interior Minister Dhaouia Hannabili said today.

The final toll could be higher, as many of the injured are in critical condition.

Soldiers and police occupied the headquarters of Tunisia's main labour union today as the capital returned to calm after a day of bloody anti-government riots.

Paratroopers carrying sub-machine guns patrolled the streets and garbage collectors cleared sidewalks of broken glass left from violent demonstrations that erupted on Thursday from a 24-hour general strike.

Armed patrols were particularly evident in the central market area, scene of much of the heavy fighting and scarred by burnt-out cars and barricades.

There was no official word on the fate of Habib Achour, whose General Union of Tunisian Workers sponsored the strike as the latest in a series of anti-government agitations. But police said they made new arrests.

A 6 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew.

was lifted and Tunis residents lined up in front of bakery shops to buy bread.

The government said demonstrators had fired on security forces, as well as pelting them with rocks and sticks, in running clashes most of the day. Several stores and shops — along with an office of the ruling Neo-Destour Party — were sacked by the mob.

Violent demonstrations were also reported in four other Tunisian cities on Thursday, including the Moslem holy city of Kairouan. All were reported calm by Friday.

The violence capped a string of strikes and protests that have evolved, since they began last fall, a demand for higher wages into a direct challenge to the government of President Habib Bourguiba.

It is the first serious challenge to 22 years of rule by President Bourguiba, who led this North African country of six million inhabitants to independence from France in 1956.

The president, who suffers from a form of arteriosclerosis, was recently forced to reduce his activities. He is now 73.

His withdrawal posed a problem of succession. Premier Hedi Nouira, the 64-year-old successor picked by President Bourguiba, does not have the political stature or popular following of his patron.

The firing a month ago of Interior Minister Tahar Belkheja, a veteran regarded as a moderate, was interpreted as a sign of high-level dissent within the government and suggested that President Bourguiba had decided to crack down on the strikers.

In Brussels, today the world's largest grouping of non-communist trade unions protested strongly against "the violent measures taken by the Tunisian authorities to repress yesterday's general strike."

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTC), which claims to represent 55 million workers, said it had sent a telegram to the Tunisian government demanding the immediate liberation of those detained or arrested, amongst whom were senior union leaders.

It added it was "extremely preoccupied" with the fate of Habib Achour, the General Secretary of the Tunisian unions.

Israeli version of U.S. backed declaration of principles takes shape

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan. 27 (R). — A lull in the war of words between Cairo and Jerusalem has revived Israeli hopes that agreement could be in sight on the fine print of a Middle East peace agreement. The gloom that settled over Israeli officials a week ago following Egypt's walkout from a meeting of foreign ministers here has noticeably lifted in the past two days.

Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said yesterday agreement seemed within reach on the wording of a declaration of principles governing Middle East peace.

For this he thanked the efforts of U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton, who stayed behind when the rest of his delegation left last week and kept working quietly from the point where the foreign ministers left off.

Lengthy talks between American and Israeli officials had narrowed the language in some areas, but a number of issues remained outstanding, including the key Palestinian question, they said.

One source described the statement by Prime Minister Begin and Foreign Minister Dayan as "Israeli gamesmanship" — an effort to put the onus on Egypt if there is no quick agreement.

A State Department official said he did not expect agreement in the near future between Israel and Egypt and "certainly not next week."

The declaration of principles, drafted in the United States, is reportedly based on President Carter's statement in Aswan, Egypt, during his recent stopover there.

The Times said in a report from Washington in its Friday edition that the declaration is comprised of three sections and postulates that treaties with Israel must do more than just end hostilities, calls for Israel to withdraw from Arab lands occupied during the war in June 1967, and calls for the Palestinians "to participate in the determination of their own future."

The United States has been pressing for the declaration of principles to provide a framework for subsequent talks and to give His Majesty King Hussein and moderate Palestinians an incentive to enter the negotiations.

The Mediterranean coastal town 14 kms. south of Beirut fell to the Palestinian-leftist alliance during the Lebanese civil war.

Damour's former presidents have been living as refugees in various areas of Christian-dominated Mount Lebanon while Damour is currently inhabited by Palestinian and Moslem refugees from areas rightists captured during the 18-month civil war.

The protest strike followed a fresh outbreak of fighting between rightwing Christian militiamen and an alliance of guerrillas and leftist Moslems in south Lebanese areas bordering Israel. The hostilities left at least 23 killed and 36 wounded by official count.

A statement by the strike's rightwing Christian organisers said the 24-hour shutdown was a protest against the government.

Schools, shops, banks, cafe houses and restaurants were closed in the Christian sector of Beirut and the Christian beltland of Mount Lebanon. Traffic in the Moslem sector of the capital was lighter than normal.

President Sarkis held an emergency session with Col. Sami Al Khatab commander of a Syrian-dominated Arab League peace army of 30,000 men which halted the civil war 14 months ago and have been policing the armistice.

No violent incidents were reported by mid-morning on either side of the capital. Moslems did not join the strike.

Bechar Gemayel, military commander of all Christian militias during the war, said yesterday that "the time is approaching when new conditions will help us to liberate south Lebanon."

His speech at a mass rally in Beirut's Christian sector was reported by the rightist "Voice of Lebanon" radio station, but was heavily censored in the local press.

The broadcast said the Lebanese government had information that Israel was preparing a military expedition to "punish" Palestinian guerrillas in the south.

The radio also reported guerrillas received increased arms supplies in the past two weeks at the port of Tyre, 80 kms. south of Beirut.

The city became an important guerrilla stronghold since Syrian peace-keepers have been unable to move that far south because of Israeli threats of intervention.

Tyre is 19 kms. north of the Israeli border.

One official commented: "For the time being this is a topic best left on the back-burner." Informed sources said this cooking metaphor, meaning to relegate a matter to the background, has been readily endorsed by Mr. Begin.

(Continued on p. 3)

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Teng has a theory

China's Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping has developed the habit of warning, every now and again, of a proceeding Soviet master-plan for world domination -- "social imperialism" he calls it. In view of the admitted Sino-Soviet quarrel most of us may tend to dismiss Mr. Teng's warnings as specimens of China's propaganda campaign against its communist neighbour. But since the world has sat up and noted with alarm Soviet moves in Africa, the Red Sea and other areas, is it not possible that these are the visible stages in the Russian master-plan? Mr. Teng keeps telling us about?

One further stage in such a plan appears now to be the current Indochinese border war between communist neighbours Vietnam and Cambodia. United States National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski was only half right when he said, earlier this month, that this was a "war by proxy between the Soviet Union and China." Indications tend to support the view that the Indochinese war is an enactment of a Soviet plan.

Mr. Teng has, again, said it before us. He has accused Moscow of planning the war and being the aggressor there. It is true that both communist superpowers are involved such that they are fighting it out in Indochina through their small satellites, with China publicly supporting the Cambodians and the Soviet Union clearly backing Vietnam. But there seems to be more to it than that.

While Vietnam repeatedly urges Cambodia to negotiate a settlement of their border dispute it never ceases to make war. Reports on what is actually happening are as contradictory as any from an Arab-Israeli war but Vietnam is the acknowledged superior force. Its army has the experience of a ferocious war with the Americans and it has a mouth-watering stockpile of left-over U.S. arms that last year it suddenly decided it won't sell after all. Despite some reports, Vietnam does not seem likely, in short, to lose its war with Cambodia.

Both Cambodia and Mr. Teng have accused Vietnam of planning to establish an "Indochinese federation" under Viet hegemony; the defeat and subjugation of Cambodia being the first step in this plan. Since Vietnam is an ally of the Soviet Union, a Viet-controlled Indochinese Peninsula can only be an instrument in Russian hands -- and a good tool with which to encircle and contain China, in addition to further advance Mr. Teng's theory of a Soviet master-plan.



Atmosphere is serene in the downtown Ahmad Qara Mosque, in contrast to the noise and activity on Wadi Seer street below. The mosque is on the fourth floor of a building donated to the Ministry of Awqaf by the man for whom it is named.

National News Roundup

Rep. for telephone meet in Geneva named

AMMAN, Jan. 27 (JNA). — The Cabinet today named Engineer Mohammad Abdul Rahman Dabbas, from the Telecommunications Corporation, to represent Jordan in the international conference on the technical and economic benefits of the choice of modern telephone exchanges, to be held in Geneva in March.

Aqaba's trade volume increases

AQABA, Jan. 27 (JNA). — The Aqaba Naval Corporation today announced that the amount of various goods imported in 1977 via the Aqaba port totalled 1,066,376 tons, whereas, in 1976 the amount totalled 871,299 tons.

Charitable union meets

AMMAN, Jan. 27 (JNA). — The Minister of Labour Issam Ajlouni presided over a meeting of the Charitable Organisations Union here today. The conferences discussed the Union's administrative and financial report and elected the members of the executive council for the union.

Alfred Atherton arrives here

AMMAN, Jan. 27 (JNA). — The United States Assistant Secretary of State for Middle East Affairs Alfred Atherton arrived here today to preside over a meeting of the U.S. ambassadors in the area. His Majesty King Hussein will receive Mr. Atherton tomorrow, where the latter will brief King Hussein on the American stand towards the M.E. conflict.

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1st FLOOR — two bedrooms, sitting and dining room, one bathroom, kitchen, garage and a large garden. 2nd FLOOR — three bedrooms, salon, sitting and dining room, kitchen, three bathrooms, three verandas, and a large garden.

For more information:
Please contact tel. 37011 Amman.

Amman's mosques: Where all are equal before God

Text and Pictures
By Marianne Pearson
Special to the Jordan Times

Jabal Luweidbdeh ; and the Mosque of the Islamic College in Jebel Amman.

Al-Husseini Mosque is built on the site of a small 14th Century mosque, but no trace remains of it. The oldest and largest, it was built in 1836 by King Abdullah, the grandfather of the King, and named by him for his own father the Sharif Hussein. It can accommodate 2,000 worshippers inside, 1,000 in the courtyard, and sometimes the number that crowd the streets outside bring

the total to 7,000 for Friday prayers and feast days.

Oriented towards Mecca

Amman has 75 working mosques and about 20 under construction, according to the Ministry of Awqaf which administers them. They have this in common with each other and with other mosques throughout the world: they are the place of prayer and community worship in which all men are equal before God. They are modelled on the place of worship of Prophet Mohammad, the courtyard of his house in Medina.

Mosques are oriented toward Mecca. In Amman's mosques the niche or mihrab in which the prayer leader stands points to the South and only very slightly to the East.

At the right of the mihrab are stairs, from the top of which the preacher delivers the Friday speech. This is the minbar, corresponding to the pulpit in churches. The one in the new Hamza Mosque in Marqa is a replica of the minbar brought from Aleppo by Saladin in the 12th Century for the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. Made in Jordan, it is put together like the original without nails.

Synchronise prayer

All mosques save a staff of at least three: the imam who leads the prayers, a khateeb who gives the sermon on Fridays and a servant who keeps the building and grounds clean and in good order and who may also serve as muezzin. Larger mosques, such as Al-Husseini, have as many as ten employees.

Because of the large number of mosques in Amman, there is a central mechanised system to synchronise the call to prayer throughout the city. The call, often on a tape recording, originates in Abu Darwish Mosque and is amplified by sound systems at each mosque.

Since the first prayers of the day start and finish before sunrise and the last call for prayers is one and a half hours after sunset, in the shortest days of winter the mosques are open for prayer from 5:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Gradually the time lengthens until summer when the first call is at 3:30 a.m. and the last at 8:30 p.m.

Free to choose

Floors of mosques are usually covered by carpets or mats. For this reason shoes are removed before entering and left outside or put on special racks provided in the mosque.

Moslems are free to choose to attend any mosque. All the mosques in Amman -- and throughout Jordan -- are of the Sunni sect. The choice of

ten depends on the preacher: some have a modern outlook, some are very conservative.

The role of women in the life of the mosque is becoming more important. There are about sixty girl students at Shar'a College of Jordan University now. Hundreds of its graduates already teach in girls' schools. About ten graduate supervise women's activities in the mosques and preach to the women. All of the new mosques have special sections for women so that they can attend Friday prayers -- as well as quarters for the imam and servant of the mosque.

Mosques are open to foreign visitors, but arrangements to visit them should be made beforehand to the Ministry of Awqaf in Jabal Hussein (across from Muasher Hospital) or at the Ministry's Department of Mosques, downtown next to the new Post Office building. It is on the third floor of a

Photo: AP/Wide World

delicieux

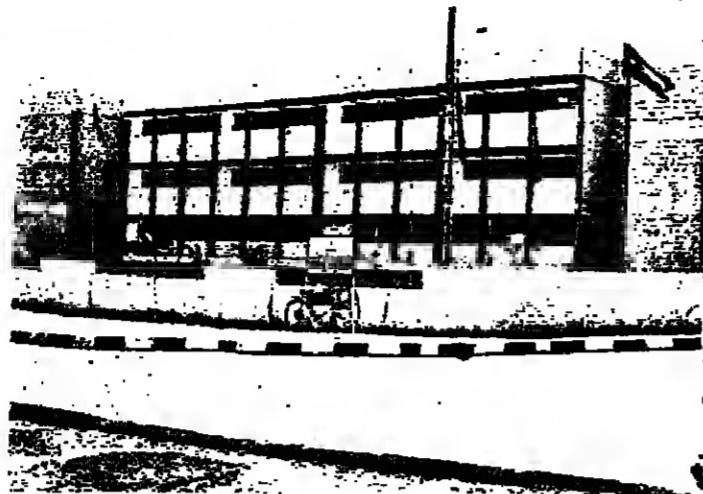
Jordan's new Yarmouk University plans to enroll 20,000 students within ten years

Continued from p. 1
contractors were on site day and night at the project. The which they completed in November 1976 included a four-building complex for the Science and Arts, a, a prefabricated plant building, a pre-library, 30 units of office staff, also pre-fab main stores hanger 100 sq. metres, a laboratories building with wards, and nine laboratories for physics, chemistry and three conventional.

second large project on before the permanent site, is a construction "The Royal Committee to adopt methods modernization, prefabrication and standardization," said Mr. Nijem, that purpose we prepare for an industrial in the southern cam-

plex, which will be a 375,000 sq. metre necessary because, Mr. Nijem, it would take 30 to build the campus conventional methods.

"Modern methods do not university", added Mr. administration building.



The faculty of Science and Arts bldg. from the front.

Standard furniture for the campus will be produced in the joinery shop. As for the future of the complex after the university is built, we "will use it for training and the development of the northern part of the country."

Two in one

The university will in fact become a contractor itself, both for the building of the permanent campus and afterwards when the facilities of the complex will operate on a commercial basis.

"More tenders will be let", said Mr. Nijem of the various parts of the complex.

The Sindan company of Jordan has received the contract to build hangars, he mentioned. Some of the contracts will

include the training of staff for the operation of those factories. Such is the case, said Mr. Nijem of the joinery shop contract.

In conclusion, Mr. Nijem said "In fact the engineering staff is running two universities" referring to the temporary and the permanent sites. Mr. Nijem comes to his present position at the new university (he was the first or second person hired) with a long record of building experience in the Arab world.

He studied in Cairo at what was then known as King Fuad I University, then spent 14 years working in Kuwait, two years in Saudi Arabia and ten years at the Ministry of Public Works here in Jordan. He admits to the supervision of the construction of "hundreds of buildings" in the country.

Part II of this feature appears tomorrow and is based on an interview with Mr. Adnan Badran, President of Yarmouk University, in which we explored the philosophy and the academic side of the new university.

The department said most of the 1977 deaths occurred in Romania with 1,500 reported killed in the March 4 quake, Iran with at least 167 killed March 21, 348 on April 6, and 521 on Dec. 19, Indonesia with at least 100 killed on Aug. 19 and Argentina claimed at least 65 killed on Nov. 23.

In contrast to the worldwide decline in earthquake activity during 1977, volcanic activity increased dramatically during 1977 over the 1976 level, the report said.

As reported by the Smithsonian Institution's scientific event alert network, more than 35 volcanoes occurred as compared with only 10 during the previous year.

Worldwide volcanic activity produced 70 deaths from an eruption in Zaire, Africa, as well as the unusual occurrence of lava spewing from a drill hole in Iceland, it said.

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Voluntary contributions to ILO top \$1.5m.; more staff, programme cuts are unlikely

GENEVA, Switzerland, Jan. 27 (Agencies). — Voluntary contributions to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) from its member states have topped the \$1.5-million mark in pledges since the United States quit the organisation in a storm of controversy last November, ILO Director General Francis Blanchard said yesterday. And because of the "speedy response" from member countries since Mr. Blanchard appealed for the voluntary funds, it is unlikely that any more staff or programme cuts will now be considered when the ILO's governing body meets next month, Mr. Blanchard said in an interview. The interview coincided with the announcement Thursday of voluntary contributions from Sweden, Norway and Papua New Guinea, bringing the number of countries answering Mr. Blanchard's appeal up to 10.

The first country to announce a voluntary contribution was Venezuela, immediately after the U.S. announced its withdrawal on Nov. 1. It has since been followed by Belgium, Cyprus, India, Luxembourg, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia and the three countries that announced their support Thursday.

The Norwegian government will give the ILO \$34,000 to earmark for assistance to developing countries under the ILO's World Employment Programme, its Programme for

Women Workers and Equal Status and its Rural Development Programme, the organisation announced.

Meanwhile, a letter to the ILO announcing Sweden's contribution of about \$320,000 said the Swedish government "fully appreciated the difficult financial situation" of the ILO since the withdrawal of the United States.

When the United States quit the ILO over what it called "politicisation" within the organisation, it took with it the \$42 million it would have paid for the two years 1978-79.

Israeli seamen's strike hits oil tanker fleet

TEL AVIV, Jan. 27 (R). — A week long strike of Israeli seamen spread to the country's oil tanker fleet yesterday despite a back-to-work order by the Seamen's Union.

Tanker crews had up to now refrained from joining the strike, called to demand more pay.

The Seamen's Union ordered its members to return to work at midday following a court order.

But ship's officers were not included in the order and stayed away from their jobs. About 40 vessels were tied up in port. Navigation experts estimated that the direct losses during the first week of the strike amounted to 20 million Israeli pounds (\$1.25 million). But they noted that indirect damages such as loss of customers would be much higher.

A spokesman for the Zim Israel Navigation Company said the company's 33 ships were idle.

He said the company put seven of its vessels for sale on markets abroad following the strike.

Soweto cost of living rose 15% last year

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, Jan. 26 (Agencies). — The price of the bare essentials to keep alive a family of five for a month in the black township of Soweto rose by more than \$20 last year to \$168.39, the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce reported yesterday.

The Chamber of Commerce says the cost of living index in Soweto rose by the equivalent of \$22.25, or 15 per cent, in 1977 compared with a rise of only 11.4 per cent for the country as a whole.

The figures amount to a calculation of a minimum monthly budget for a Soweto family of five. The annual cost would be \$2,020.68.

The chamber emphasised the figures should not be regarded as a minimum basic wage. It said some companies pay 25 to 50 per cent above the figure as a minimum wage.

The chamber also published a second figure on the cost of living in Soweto, which includes some additional luxury items, such as family entertainment. This figure rose from the equivalent of \$159.00 to \$182.90 last year.

Meanwhile, a survey published by the Human Sciences Research Council in Pretoria, shows that the median incomes of blacks, mixed-race coloureds and Asian professionals in government service is higher than in the private sector.

It showed that in March 1977, median annual incomes in the government service generally were the equivalent of \$7,157.90 for blacks, \$8,797.29 for coloureds and \$7,792.87 for Asians.

The overall increase for black professional men was largest in both the private and public sector.

In the public service, the median salary increased by 29.2 per cent from \$5,541.60 in 1975 to \$7,157.90 in 1977. The increase in the private sector was 55 per cent from \$4,260.10 to \$6,603.74.

The survey covered 1,262 highly qualified, economically active blacks, coloureds and Asians. When calculating the incomes, bonuses and other additional incomes were excluded.

A median income is not an average income. It is calculated to reflect the largest single group in a community. Some may earn more and some may earn less. An average income reflects the total income divided by the number of persons.

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Mauritania
cannot me
iron expo
commitmer

NOUAKCHOTT, Jan. 27 — Mauritania will be to meet its iron ore commitments this month cause of disruption caused by a two-year guerrilla war for control of the West African, officials said yesterday.

The announcement while representatives of Western and Arab firms met in Paris to whether to join in a \$600 million investment program aimed at opening new iron mines in the war zone of Mauritania.

Officials from the state-owned mining company SNIM (Societe Nationale Industrielle et Miniere) would have to postpone contracts for January 4 to Western Europe Japan.

They also said it was full that February's debt could be met in full.

Algerian-backed PA guerrillas have been waging desert campaign to gain control of the Western Saharan, which was ceded to Spain and Morocco by Spain 1976.

A principal target of guerrillas has been the 1,000 km. railway line which the huge mining complex Zouerate in the interior coastal port town of Nouakchott.

The officials said the war had reduced Mauritania's iron ore production to 1.4 million tons last year from 2.8 million tons in 1976. Iron ore exports account for 80 per cent of the country's revenues.

Among those meets Paris to decide on how Mauritania's mining operations are the World Bank, the United States, France, the European Economic Community and several funds.

Canada may end suspension of uranium supplies to Japan

TOKYO, Jan. 27 (Agencies). —

Canada is likely to end a year-long suspension of uranium supplies to Japan, Japanese government spokesmen said yesterday.

The spokesmen, briefing on the second round of talks between Canadian Foreign Minister Donald Jamieson and Japanese Foreign Minister Sunao Sonoda, said they obtained the "impression" that Canada would resume uranium sup-

pplies.

Canada suspended the uranium supplies in January, 1977 as the two countries long failed to agree on revision of their Atomic Energy Cooperation Agreement to include stricter safeguards insisted on by Canada.

The Japanese officials said the two foreign ministers were scheduled to sign a new atomic agreement soon. They said that based on a favourable impres-

sion they obtained from working-level talks between the two countries long failed to agree on the resumption of uranium supplies.

They said Mr. Jamieson did not make any spoken pledge on uranium during his talks with Mr. Sonoda. But they said they were certain the Canadian minister would come back with a favourable reply after he consulted with Ottawa.

Mt. Palomar telescope beams in on remarkable asteroid-Kowal's plane

A new planet that was photographed 37 years ago and several times afterwards and yet remained unspotted on the plates has now finally been recognised with the help of the Mount Palomar telescope in the U.S. and an amateur astronomer. It has a diameter of 500 miles.

By Geoffrey Hugh Lindop

LONDON. — It's a romantic notion that astronomers spend hours peering through large telescopes in an attempt to discover the odd comet, methodically remembering the star patterns in an attempt to spot a newcomer to the skies.

True, the British amateur astronomer George Alcock, who discovered three comets, could immediately identify at least 30,000 stars, but most professional astronomers content themselves by taking photographs of certain areas of the sky, and spotting new comets or asteroids in the luxury of their centrally-heated offices.

Such photographic sky patrols are now becoming standard practice among amateur astronomers as well and lead to some unusual results. For instance, Dr. T. Gehrels, using the 48-inch Schmidt telescope at Mount Palomar, in the U.S., took a number of photographs of the sky during October, 1960 and over several years 2,000 asteroids were discovered on the plates.

Using the same telescope last Oct. 18, Charles Kowal took another photograph on which he discovered an object. A second photograph taken the next night revealed that the object was a very slow moving planet.

Indeed, Mr. Kowal himself photographed the planet as long ago as 1968 and, although it was then about the same brightness as the discovery plate, he did not notice it.

In the 1950's, the 200-inch telescope at Mount Palomar, conducted a photographic survey of the entire sky. It was logical, therefore, to see if Kowal's planet was recorded on that survey.

Sure enough, it was located on a plate exposed on Aug. 23, 1952. A similar survey at Bloemfontein, South Africa, recorded the planet twice, on March 8, 1943 and as long ago as Jan. 23, 1941, when the planet was about eight times brighter than when Kowal discovered it. It seems incredible nobody noticed it before.

The planet's orbit has been computed from these observations by J. G. Williams, of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, from where the American planetary probes, such as Viking and Voyager are controlled; and also by Brian Marsden, of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. Mr. Marsden is one of the world's leading authorities on comets.

It seems that the planet approached closest to the sun in 1945 and also in 1895, although it is not known exactly when. At the other end of the scale, 16 asteroids are known that

researchers have found no reference to a possible sighting in 1895. This may at first sight seem a long shot, but at least four asteroids were discovered in that year, as faint, or fainter than Kowal's planet.

Kowal's planet is recognised as being an asteroid, and carries the official designation 1977UB. As an asteroid, however, it is a truly remarkable specimen.

Asteroids are generally re-

ckoned to lie between the orbits of Jupiter and Mars — but this refers to the average distance from the sun.

Ten asteroids are known to approach the sun closer than the earth -- and most famous being asteroid Icarus, which at its closest can be only 19 million miles from the sun -- well within the orbit of Mercury.

It is named after the legendary character from Greek mythology, who, having made himself wings of wax and feathers, flew too close to the sun, melting the wax and falling to his death. No such fate befalls the asteroid, however, as it continues in its 407-day orbit, taking it well beyond the orbit of Mars.

At the other end of the scale, 16 asteroids are known that

are further from the sun than Venus, and so on.

In the 18th century realised that instead major planet orbiting between Mars and there was a whole host of planets -- or it is debatable as to these planetary fragments a planet that failed to due to tide rising forces between Jupiter and Mars, or what asteroids are the debris a planet that for some exploded.

An interesting aspect of asteroids is that those appearing close enough to be seen from Earth are not visible by eye, but something like a telescope. Some astrophysicists argue that this shape is characteristic of a fragment an exploded planet that a world that never form must await a space probe land on one of the worlds before we for sure which theory is correct.

What are the chances of finding more planets like this? In 1981 or 1982 a telescope will be carried into orbit by the American Shuttle. It will operate automatically from its orbit back pictures to Earth.

The telescope, with a very narrow 94 inches in diameter, will be able to detect objects as small as 2 million miles from Jupiter, or 17 million miles from the surface of Pluto. Using an instrument known as a coronagraph, it should stand out from any other asteroid in the solar system.

Present estimates put the diameter of the newly discovered planet at 500 miles. Only Ceres, 478 miles diameter, is larger.

Kowal was so surprised at the uniqueness of the planet he discovered that he did not know whether to call it an asteroid or the tenth planet of the solar system.

What then is the difference between a planet and an asteroid?

The most obvious criterion is one of size. The smallest proper planet is Mercury. Its diameter is nearly 3,000 miles -- ten times larger than Pallas or Vesta, or Kowal's planet.

There is, however, a more fundamental difference between asteroids and planets. The planets are not arranged haphazardly throughout the solar system. Venus, for instance is roughly 1.5 times further away from the sun than Mercury.

Kowal's planet is unique in having a "year" of nearly 50 earth-years. This length of time is a reflection of the tremendous distance between this planet and the sun. Lying between the orbits of Saturn and Uranus, at an average distance from the sun of 1,900 million miles the planet is strongly influenced by the gravitational pull of Jupiter, Saturn and Uranus.

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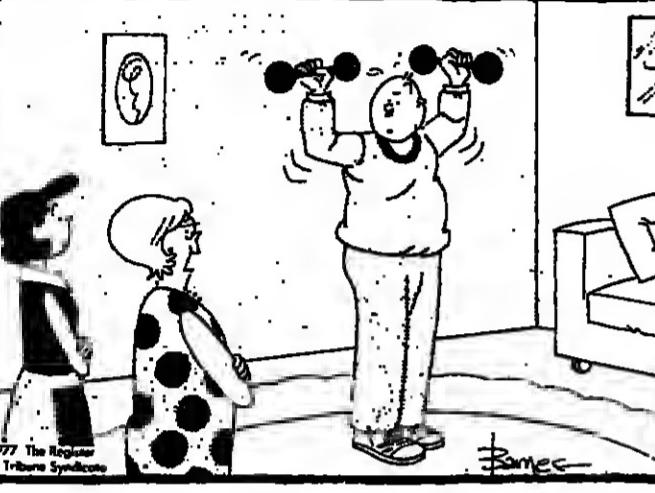
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or's note: Your Daily Horoscope has not arrived yet. We hope to continue the column as soon as possible.

THE BETTER HALE By Barnes

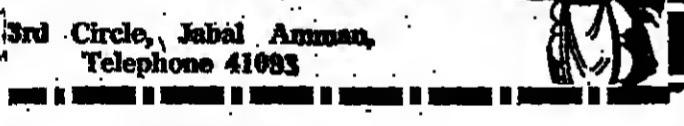


"It's too bad there's not an exercise to get rid of that bit of fat above the neck."

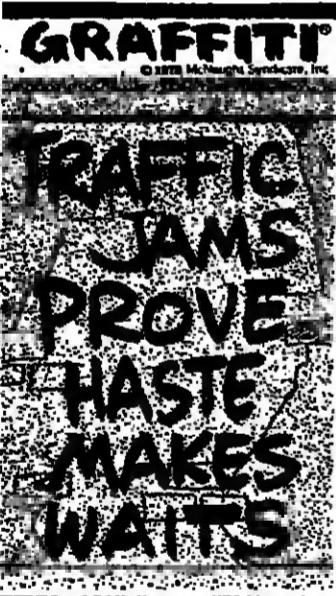
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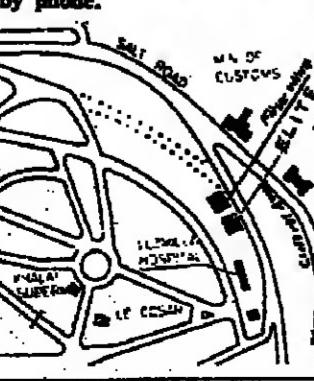
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ABOUT

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PEANUTS



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MUTT & JEFF



THE FLINTSTONES



THE BETTER HALE By Barnes



"I have started to clean up the litter. Somebody left the rake leaning against my chair, so I put it away."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

Channel 3 & 6:
6:00 Quran
6:15 Cartoons
6:30 Arabic programme
7:00 Partridge family
8:00 News in Arabic
11:00 News in Arabic
12:00 Agricultural program-
me

8:30 Arabic series
8:45 Reportage
9:30 News in Hebrew
7:30 News in Arabic
9:30 Rhoda
9:45 Variety
10:00 News in English
10:15 Crown court

RADIO JORDAN

7:00 Breakfast show
7:30 News bulletin
8:00 Morning show
10:00 News headlines
11:00 Morning show
11:30 Play of the week
11:00 Signing off
12:00 News headlines
13:00 News summary
13:05 Pop session
14:00 News bulletin

14:30 Arab scientists
14:45 Water ways
15:00 Concert hour
16:00 Pop session
16:30 French music
17:00 Pop session
18:00 News summary
18:30 Jumping Jack Flash
19:00 News bulletin
19:10 News reports
19:30 Signing off

EMERGENCIES

Doctors :
Amman : Muhs Ahmad Banher (36350)
Younis Alesei (37440)
Irbid : Mother Halabi (21933)
Zarqa : Farid Al-Karibaw.
Taxis : Taif (20261)
Nis (44431)

Pharmacies :
Amman : Sabagh (23157)
Salami (36730)
Fawzi (64216)
Rahman (21224)

Taxis :
Taif (20261)
Nis (44431)

BBC RADIO

GMT
05:00 News: Press Review
06:15 About Britain
05:30 Music of Two Cities
06:45 World Today
06:55 News: Press Review
06:30 Terry Wogan
07:00 News, News about Britain
07:15 From the Weeklies
07:30 Do You Remember?
07:45 Letter from London
08:00 News: Reflections
08:15 Europe
08:30 Command Performance
08:00 News: Press Review
08:15 World Today
09:30 Financial News
09:45 South Riding
10:15 About Britain
10:30 Matthew on Music
11:00 News, News about Britain
11:15 Europe
11:30 Psychology at Work
12:00 Radio Newswise
12:05 Jazz for the Asking
12:45 Sports Round-up
13:00 News, Commentary

13:15 People and Politics
13:30 Theme and Variations
14:15 Do You Remember?
14:30 What's New
15:00 Radio Newswise
15:15 Saturday Special
16:00 News, Commentary
16:15 Sunday Special
17:00 News, Saturday, Saturday Special
17:45 Sports Round-up
18:00 News, Round about Britain
18:15 Radio Newswise
18:30 Sound of the Air
18:30 Frank Chackfield
20:00 News, Commentary
20:15 People and Politics
20:30 Command Performance
21:00 Scotland Today
21:15 The Melody Makers
21:30 London London
21:40 Books and Writers
22:00 News, Music Now
22:40 Reflections
22:45 Sports Round-up
23:00 News, Commentary
23:15 Don't Miss!
23:30 Jazz for the Asking

VOICE OF AMERICA

GMT
05:00 The Breakfast Show:
to on the hour and 25 min
06:30 after each hour
17:00 News and New Programmes
17:15 Critic Choices
17:30 Issues in the News
18:00 Special English, News/
Words and their Stories
18:15 Critic Choices
19:00 Issues in the News
21:30 World News, Commentary

18:30 Show Music USA
19:00 News and Topical Reports
19:30 New Horizons
Studio One
Special English, News/
Words and their Stories
The Concert Hall
19:45 News and New Produc-
tions to USA
21:00 Critic Choices
Issues in the News
21:30 World News, Communi-
cation

AMMAN AIRPORT

Arrivals :
7:40 Cairo (EA)
8:25 Muscat, Doha
8:45 Beirut (MEA)
9:00 Bahrain
9:30 Karachi, Dubai
9:30 Kuwait (Tarom)
9:30 Agadez
11:15 Tripoli
12:00 Beirut
12:30 Copenhagen, Frankfurt
13:00 Vienna, Copenhagen
13:30 Cairo
14:00 Bengazi
14:45 Beirut (MEA)
15:00 Paris, London
20:00 London (BA)
02:25 Rawalpindi (BA)

Departures :
21:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai
03:25 London (BA)

CULTURAL CENTRES

American Centre (OSIS) Tel. 41520
British Council 36147-8
French Cultural Centre 37009
Goethe Institute 41983
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203
Amman Municipal Library 36111

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ambulance (government) Tel. 75111
Civil defence rescue 24381-4
Fire headquarters 22080
Pristaid, fire, police 19
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency) 36381-2
Municipal water service (emergency) 37711-3
Police headquarters 39141
Najdeh roving patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency calls 21111, 37777
Airport information (Arabic) 55205

GORED BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN
AND OMAR SEABIF
© 1978 by Chicago Tribune

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦KQJ8 ♠KJ82 ♣A542
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♦ Pass 2 NT Pass
2 ♦ Dble. Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.6—As South, vulnerahle, you hold:
♦1076 ♠AQ7 ♣AKQ1062
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♦ Pass 2 NT Pass
3 ♦ Pass 3 NT Pass
? What do you bid now?

Q.7—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦AQJ102 ♠95 ♣A1072 ♣8
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♦ Pass 2 ♦ Pass
2 ♦ Pass 3 ♦ Pass
? What action do you take?

Q.8—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦A1098 ♠Q1072 ♠8 ♣A542
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South
1 ♦ Dble. ?
What action do you take?

U.S., Canadian search teams "lose" contact with radiation source

OTTAWA, Jan. 27 (Agencies). — U.S. and Canadian teams have temporarily "lost" a source of high radiation believed to come from debris of a nuclear-fuelled Soviet satellite that disintegrated over Canada on Tuesday. A Canadian Defence spokesman said that after the initial detection of abnormal radiation in an "uninhabited" area of Canada on Wednesday night, three sensor-equipped aircraft had criss-crossed the area at a lower altitude than the first sweep but "no additional contacts were made," the spokesman said.

A possible reason, he explained, was that the debris had become buried on impact and that the radiation source was underground emitting a stream of radiation in a cone shape that became narrower at the base.

Hence the lower an aircraft

flew over it, the more difficult it became to pinpoint.

The spokesman said a localised search by a low-flying Chinook helicopter was carried out today in the area, which is in Canada's Northwest Territories.

The size of the debris and

the scale of the radiation hazard possibly will not be known for several days while meticulous analysis is made of the radiation, described by officials as higher than any source from natural uranium deposits.

Only when the radiation strength has been accurately determined will a decision be made to send in ground teams which are already stationed at a small community called Baker Lake.

The spokesman has also reported that aerial teams detected lower levels of radioactivity at a point about 50 miles farther west.

Fourteen Canadian specialists and six Americans were flown to Baker Lake. But the bitter cold weather and winter daylight lasting only five hours hampered the hunt. Meanwhile, U.S. and Canadian planes continued to check for other unusual radioactivity over much of Canada and as far south as Fort Wayne, Indiana.

NATO members will separately reply to Brezhnev's letter

BRUSSELS, Jan. 27 (R). — The NATO nations today decided that they will reply individually to a letter from Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev warning the alliance against introducing the so-called neutron bomb in Western Europe. Alliance sources said the ambassadors of NATO nations met this morning to discuss the implications of the letter, which was sent by Mr. Brezhnev a month ago to NATO and other government heads.

Vietnam says journalists saw proof of Cambodian "atrocities"

HONG KONG, Jan. 27 (R). — Foreign journalists have been shown the blackened ruins of a border hamlet in Vietnam where 27 people were "butchered" by Cambodian troops two weeks ago, the Vietnam News Agency reported today.

Correspondents from 11 nations visited the village of Ba Den where "the aggressive troops on Jan. 13 butchered 27 people," according to a military spokesman quoted by the news agency.

Yesterday, Vietnam accused Cambodian soldiers of murdering and disembowelling Cambodian civilians and then claim-

ing the Vietnamese committed the atrocities. Two Cambodian soldiers said to have been captured inside Vietnam have also been shown to journalists this week in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon).

After visiting the devastated ruins of Ba Den hamlet in An Giang Province, the journalists were taken to the scene of a major border clash on Jan. 19 when "the Vietnamese armed forces severely mauled five Kampuchean (Cambodian) battalions," today's agency report said.

They noted that Defence Minister, Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap, veteran of 30 years' fighting against the French and Americans, visited troops in the southern sector recently.

Latest reports indicate that fighting is now mainly restricted to a thumb of Vietnamese territory jutting into Cambodia south of Phnom Penh.

U.S.-European satellite carries world's most advanced telescope

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, Jan. 27 (R). — An international astronomy satellite which will be used by astronomers throughout the world was launched from here yesterday at 1736 GMT with a Delta Rocket.

Called the International Ultra-Violet Explorer, the 672 kgs. spacecraft carries the most advanced telescope ever flown to study celestial objects.

The U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration is providing the spacecraft and its telescope, the rocket and launch costs. Britain's Science Research Council in collaboration with University College, London, provided the four cameras aboard.

The European Space Agency (ESA) provided the solar cells to power the satellite and a ground station near Madrid.

Overall cost of the mission, including three years of operation, is expected to run to about \$37 million. The United States is paying about \$37 million, Britain some \$3 million, and ESA about \$21 million.

One of the most important aspects of the mission is that it will enable astronomers to make observations by looking at colour television displays, photographs or printed data.

One station will use the explorer for eight hours a day dividing the time equally between the European Space Agency and the British. A U.S. station in Maryland will use the satellite 16 hours a day.

About 200 astronomers from 17 countries have been selected to make observations from the ground. The list includes Russian astronomers from an observatory in Estonia.

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Jalal

New Portuguese government begins work on austerity plan

LISBON, Jan. 27 (R). — Portugal's new centre-left government, headed by Socialist Prime Minister Mario Soares, today began drawing up a tough new austerity programme for submission to parliament next week.

The 16-member cabinet, which includes three members of the conservative Centre Democratic Party (CDS), will be sworn in by President Ramalho Eanes on Monday.

But Dr. Soares, heading the nation's second constitutional government since the 1976 elections, said his team would get down to work straight away.

A vital role will be played by Dr. Victor Constancio, an economist who has been put in charge of a new super-ministry combining Finance and Planning.

Dr. Constancio, 34, has been chief negotiator for Portugal's entry into the European Common Market and a key member of the team shortly due to resume crucial loan negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Dr. Soares told reporters the programme would follow the guidelines of the agreement he signed last week with Prof. Dingo Freitas do Amaral, leader of the CDS. Together the two parties have 143 of the 263 seats in the Assembly of the Republic.

The prime minister said his new "government of the left with the support of the centre" was in the broad European

tradition of agreements between Socialists and Christian Democrats.

But the Socialist-CDS deal has been bitterly assailed by the Communists and the radical left -- and, in parliament last night, by a deputy of Dr. Soares' own Socialist Party. The deputy, Dr. Carlos Candal, said he and other party militants felt "frustrated" by the agreement. But, he added, the

main losers were the centre-right Social Democrats (PSD) runners-up to the Socialists in the 1976 elections.

The Social Democrats are holding a crucial National Congress in Oporto, Portugal's second city, this weekend in a crisis over leadership and polity.

The PSD crisis began last November when its ambitious leader Dr. Francisco da Cunha, a 43-year-old Oporto lawyer, suddenly resigned and was temporarily replaced by economics Prof. Antonio Sousa Franco, 35, regarded as chief of the moderate "urban" wing of the major opposition party.

Dr. Cunha is reportedly to have told the PSD leadership he is not inclined to return as PSD president, partly for health reasons -- but is widely expected his main supporters among the 700 delegates at the two-day congress opening tomorrow will make bid to draft him back as leader.

Turkey says no to Kyprianou

Gunman surrenders in Canada

ANKARA, Jan. 27 (R). — A Turkish Foreign Ministry statement today described Mr. Spyros Kyprianou's proclamation as President of Cyprus for five-years as ill-timed when efforts were being made to define the island's constitutional status.

The ministry said Turkey does not recognise him as president, but only as leader of the Greek-Cypriot community.

Such a move was regarded as ill-timed because efforts were underway to resume negotiations on the constitutional status of the republic, it said.

This was a reference to the Turkish side's promise of firm proposals on the constitutional and territorial aspects of the Cypriot problem to help U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim revive inter-communal talks stalled since last April.

Although no details of the proposals have emerged, informed sources said the Turkish side favoured a presidency which would alternate between the two communities.

The president would head a small government of ministers drawn from each side with limited powers over foreign and fiscal policy. The two communities would have autonomy in their own regions.

His two remaining hosts were released unharmed.

The gunman, unidentified but said to be in his 40s, commanded the clinic after gunfight at a nearby motel which one police officer was killed.

Two other policemen in the gunman's wife were wounded in the shooting. The wife also unharmed, is under guard in a hospital.

The gunman had demanded an aircraft and safe pass from Canada, immunity from prosecution and \$100,000 ransom for his hostages.

Vietnamese authorities stepped up their recruiting of men from 18 years old to the mid-to-late 30s in Ha Tien as well as other parts of Vietnam. It was not clear from the refugee reports whether the recruits were going to the regular forces, the militia or both.

The Vietnamese counter-attacked at various points, including in Ha Tien region.

The recent refugees said that shortly before their escape they saw "active movements of troops, supplies and ammunition" around Ha Tien. There is some speculation here that the Vietnamese may be preparing for another thrust, one that would correct some of the mistakes of the last one.

The refugees said authorities in Ha Tien provided little explanation for Vietnam fighting its onetime communist ally. As elsewhere along the 1,200 kms. long frontier, territorial disputes play a role in the Ha Tien area.

The town of Ha Tien, as well as other sections of the southern border area, belonged to Cambodia until the 18th century and the French later drew up a questionable frontier between their two colonies.

Then, in early January, the refugees say the Cambodians struck back, outflanked the invading Vietnamese, trapping them forcing them to withdraw in turn, thrusting into Vietnam.

Commenting on the Vietnamese superiority in manpower and weaponry, one refugee said: "We are stronger than the Vietnamese."

"It's natural. The old people on the communist side have been fighting for decades and they're tired. And every year they have to draft men. Some of these are very young."



This is how the famed Niagara Falls now look on the Canadian side after a blizzard hit the border region between the United States and Canada in the past few days. (AP wirephoto)

Last-minute snag hits Salisbury agreement

SALISBURY, Jan. 27 (R). — Rhodesian settlement talks

have hit a snag just as white and black leaders prepared to announce agreement in principle on an interim multi-racial government to lead the country to majority rule, sources close to the talks reported today.

Objections have been raised by Bishop Abel Muzorewa's United African National Council (UANC).

These are, according to the sources, the method of election of the special white minority bloc in the parliament of a black majority-ruled Zimbabwe and the composition of the armed forces of the new country.

Sources said the UANC regarded these objections as serious, but added they expected them to be resolved sooner rather than later. An announcement on agreement in principle clearing the way for the interim administration was still expected within a week, the sources said.

The negotiators -- Premier Ian Smith, Bishop Muzorewa, the Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole of the African National Council (ANC) and tribal Chief Jeremiah Chirau of the Zimbabwe United People's Organisation (ZUPO) -- agreed earlier in the talks that whites should

hold 28 seats in a theoretical 100-seat parliament.

Certain safeguards for the white community would be entrenched in a new constitution and a parliamentary vote of 78 in favour would be required to change these clauses. This protection of the whites would endure for 10 years.

It had been thought generally agreed that the whites would be elected on a whites-only voters roll. But a source close to the UANC said that party had not agreed on a separate roll.

The prime minister said his

new "government of the left with the support of the centre" was in the broad European

Thus American Jews "correct" the facts!

CHICAGO, Jan. 27 (R). — The Borg-Warner Corporation has apologised for distributing a calendar depicting the old city of Jerusalem as in Jordan and crediting a Turkish sultan with building the "Wailing Wall". The calendar, containing pictures and scenes from around the world, was sent to hundreds of customers at Christmas. The American Jewish Congress had charged the company with "startling distortion of political fact and rewriting of modern and Biblical history" and had labelled the calendar as an affront to Jews and the state of Israel. A company spokesman blamed carelessness by the printers and lax proof reading. A letter of apology had been sent to all recipients of the calendar. Borg-Warner and its subsidiaries make transport equipment, industrial and air conditioning products and chemicals and plastics.

Eye-witness says despite their superior strength Viets are tired of border war

By Denis D. Gay

LAEM SING, Thailand — The once bustling Vietnamese coastal town of Ha Tien was all but deserted and every day the dead and wounded were ferried on trucks and boats from battlefields with Cambodia, that knifed into Vietnam, recent refugees from the war zone say.

Few eye-witness accounts are available from the sharp border conflict between Vietnam and Cambodia. Foreign reporters have not been allowed into the combat zone, and most of the scant information on the fighting has

come from conflicting reports by official Cambodian and Vietnamese media.

Vietnamese and Cambodians fleeing in Thailand from the southwestern-most corner of Vietnam describe heavy artillery duels, cross-border operations by both sides and some sharp Vietnamese repulses.

Refugees at this camp say that when they fled on Jan. 13, Cambodian forces had pushed about 3 kms. into Vietnam along a front north of Ha Tien and were shelling the town and its surrounding regions.

They said the 307th Division, composed largely of North Vietnamese, was opposing them, using some tanks, heavy artillery, light observation aircraft and helicopters.

The refugees claimed the morale of some of the Vietnamese troops, many of them in their late teens, was low and that they had personally spoken to some deserters.

Refugee Huynh Van Loc, a 49-year-old mechanic, said authorities had ordered the evacuation of Ha Tien and the immediate surroundings late last year but that some of the civilians had filtered back. Based on its representation in the National Assembly, Ha Tien district had a population before the fighting of between 100,000 and 150,000.

Loc said some of the town's rich people had sent caretakers back to look after their belongings and that a few of the poor returned from outlying areas during the day to sell coffee and cakes to the soldiers in the town. All stores have been ordered closed and a 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. curfew has been slapped on Ha Tien, a once thriving fishing centre.

Loc said he was allowed to move about with some freedom since he was doing repair work for the authorities. He said that in early January he daily saw truckloads of dead and wounded Vietnamese returning from the front.

Souer En, a 31-year-old man who escaped with Loc and his family, said he couldn't

estimate the casualties or the size of the opposing forces.

He described the burial of Vietnamese dead, and said the wounded sat up in trucks since there was not enough room for them to stretch out. He said dead Vietnamese officers were brought out of battle by helicopters.

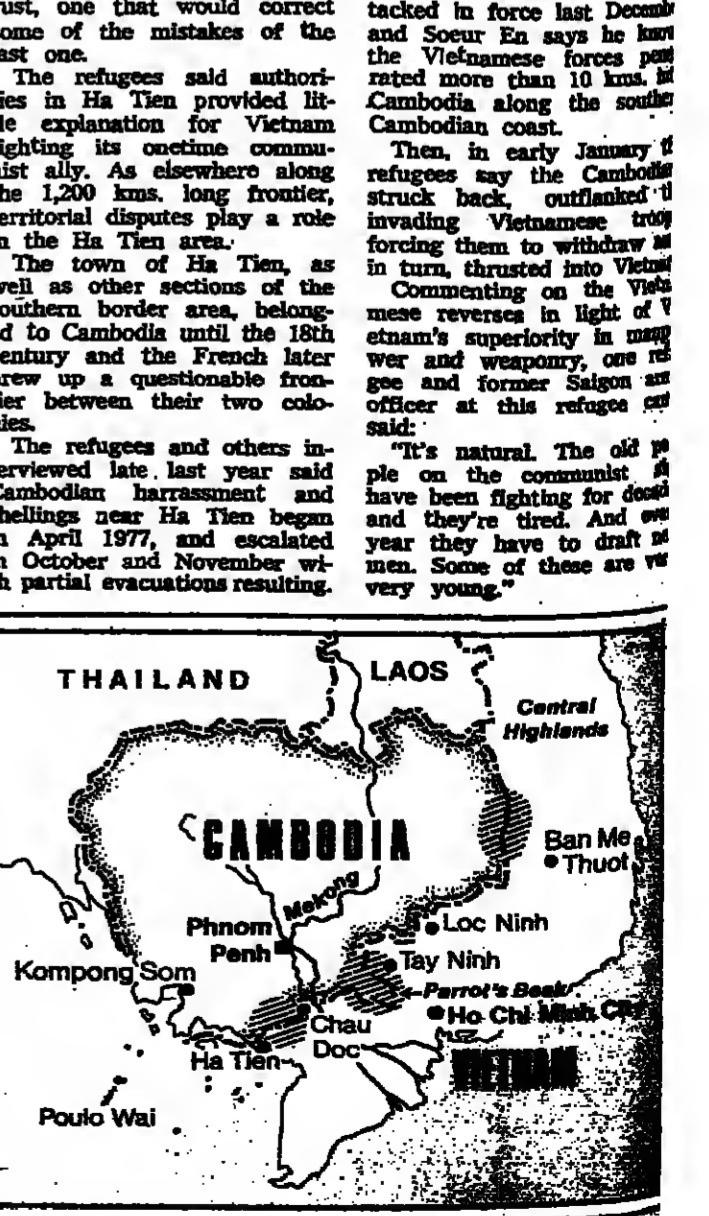
Souer En, a Cambodian who fled his country to Ha Tien after the communist took control of his country in 1975, said he had never seen so many casualties during the war. He called the border conflict a "barbarous war".

Details of the refugee stories could not be confirmed by independent sources, but the fighting described appeared to tally with earlier reports by Thai intelligence and other analysts. Cambodia is claiming a "great historic victory" on Jan. 6, about the time the refugees said the Vietnamese were beaten back.

Analysts were generally agree that Vietnamese forces drove into Cambodia and scored major victories in mid-to-late December and then suffered some losses as Cambodian troops regrouped and

shelled near Ha Tien. The town of Ha Tien, as well as other sections of the southern border area, belonged to Cambodia until the 18th century and the French later drew up a questionable frontier between their two colonies.

The refugees said authorities interviewed late last year said Cambodian harassment and shellings near Ha Tien began in April 1977, and escalated in October and November with partial evacuations resulting



INDOCHINESE WAR

Disputed areas

0 Miles 200